

REMARKS

General Remarks

With this Amendment, Applicants add new Claims 39-41. No new matter is added. Therefore, Claims 12-25 and 39-41 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

The Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The Examiner also returns a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 filed by Applicants with the December 15, 2003 IDS.

The Gunjima reference. Applicants note that the Examiner asserts that the Gunjima reference was submitted by Applicants. (Office Action, p. 4). However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Gunjima reference was not included by Applicants in the December 15, 2003 IDS. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner submit a PTO-Form 892 including this reference along with the next correspondence.

Figures. Figure 14 stands objected to under MPEP §608.02 for failing to include a "Prior Art" legend. Applicants amend Figure 14, as shown, in order to include a "Prior Art" legend. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Figure 14 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Additionally, the figures stand objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they include the reference number "23," which is allegedly not mentioned in the specification. Regarding this objection, Applicants submit that reference number "23" is

described in the specification as an “aligned film” at least at page 44, line 10. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this objection to the figures be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Specification. The Summary of the Invention stands objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.73 as allegedly in non-compliance for excessive length and for including details of the inventive device, referring to the prior art, and referring to the drawings. Regarding this objection, Applicants submit that 37 C.F.R. § 1.73 does not set any word limit on the Summary of the Invention, nor does it prohibit comparison of the invention to the prior art, or reference to drawings. The current Summary of the Invention does indicate the nature and substance of the invention and is commensurate with the invention as claimed, and thus is in full compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.73. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Summary of the Invention be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Additionally, the description of Figure 13 in the disclosure of the application stands objected to as unclear, in comparison with the structure of the device as shown in the Figures. Applicants amend the description of Figure 13, as shown, for purposes of clarity, and therefore respectfully request that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim objections. Claim 20 stands objected to under MPEP 2173.05(d) for containing the phrase “such as.” Applicants amend Claim 20, as shown, for purposes of clarity and respectfully request that the objection to Claim 20 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Prior Art Rejections. Claims 12, 13, 15-19, 22, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bao et al., EP 867,747 and U.S. Patent No. 6,266,108

(“Bao”), in view of Tai et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,390,276 (“Tai”) and Gunjima et al., U.S. Patent No. (“5,587,816”) (“Gunjima”).

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bao, in view of Tai, Gunjima, and Qiao et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,485,291 (“Qiao”).

Claims 14 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bao, in view of Tai, Gunjima, and Ishimaru, JP 11-142618 (“Ishimaru”).

Claims 12, 13, 15-17, 20-22, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ciupke et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,461,547 (“Ciupke”), in view of Bao and Gunjima.

Claims 14 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ciupke, in view of Bao, Gunjima, and Ishimaru.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ciupke, Bao, Gunjima, and Yokoyama et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,584,556 (“Yokoyama”).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as discussed below.

Claims 12, 13, 15-19, 22, 24, and 25 over Bao, Tai, and Gunjima; and Claims 12, 13, 15-17, 21, 22, 24, and 25 over Ciupke, Bao, and Gunjima

Regarding the Examiner’s rejection of Claims 12, 13, 15-19, 22, 24, and 25 over Bao, Tai, and Gunjima, and the rejection of Claims 12, 13, 15-17, 21, 22, 24, and 25 over Ciupke, Bao, and Gunjima, Applicants submit that the cited combinations of references fail to teach or suggest each of the limitations of the present invention as recited in the claims.

Regarding Claim 12, Applicants submit that none of Bao, Tai, Gunjima, or Ciupke teach or suggest a transparent film having a thickness of 300 μ m or less and having a transparent adhesive provided on one surface of the film and having repetitive prismatic structure provided on the other surface of the film, as claimed.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 12 is patentable over the cited combinations of references, and that Claims 13, 15-19, 21, 22, 24, and 25 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 12. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 20 over Bao, Tai, Gunjima, and Qiao; and over Ciupke, Bao, and Gunjima

Regarding the Examiner's rejections of Claim 20 over Bao, Tai, Gunjima, and Qiao; and over Ciupke, Bao, and Gunjima, Applicants submit that Claim 20 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependence on Claim 12, and further because the cited combinations of references fail to teach or suggest discontinuous grooves, as claimed.

Regarding Claim 20 over Bao, Tai, Gunjima, and Qiao, the Examiner refers to Qiao as teaching discontinuous grooves, as claimed. However, the Examiner fails to point to or specifically note a portion of Qiao which teaches this limitation. In fact, Applicants submit that no portion of Qiao teaches or suggests discontinuous grooves, as recited in Claim 20. Further, as acknowledged by the Examiner (Office Action, p. 6), Bao, Tai, and Gunjima also fail to teach or suggest discontinuous grooves, as claimed.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claim 20 over Ciupke, Bao, and Gunjima, the Examiner acknowledges that Bao and Gunjima fail to teach or suggest discontinuous grooves

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Application No. 10/734,224

Q78828

(Office Action, p. 6), but fails to point out or particularly cite any portion of Ciupke which teaches or suggests this limitation. Applicants submit that like Bao, Tai, Gunjima, and Qiao, Ciupke fails to teach or suggest discontinuous grooves, as claimed.

Therefore, in view of at least the above, Applicants submit that Claim 20 is patentable over the cited combinations of references and respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 20 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 14 and 23 over Bao, Tai, Gunjima, and Ishimaru; Claims 14 and 23 over Ciupke, Bao, Gunjima, and Ishimaru; and Claim 19 over Ciupke, Bao, Gunjima, and Yokoyama

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claims 14 and 23 over Bao, Tai, Gunjima, and Ishimaru; Claims 14 and 23 over Ciupke, Bao, Gunjima, and Ishimaru; and Claim 19 over Ciupke, Bao, Gunjima, and Yokoyama, Applicants respectfully submit that Ishimaru and Yokoyama fail to remedy the deficiencies of Bao, Tai, Gunjima, and Ciupke as discussed above, and therefore, that Claims 14, 19, and 23 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 12.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 14 and 23 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New Claims 39-41

Applicants add new Claims 39-41 in order more fully to cover various aspects of Applicants' invention as disclosed in the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 39-41 are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 20, discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/734,224

Q78828

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

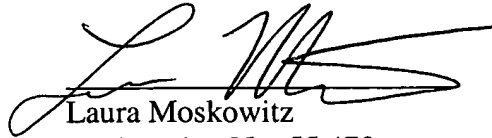
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

Date: September 21, 2004

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/734,224

Q78828

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figure 14 with the attached replacement figure.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet